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Applicant argues that Nakakita fails to teach a system and method of managing a network configuration in such a way that a participation terminal device can directly communicate with another participation terminal device as in Claims 6, 18 and 22.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Nakakita discloses a method wherein a requesting terminal, read as the Claimed participation terminal, attempts to register with a base station and communicate with other terminals of different manufacture, interpreted to read on the Claimed management of network configuration for direct communication.

[paragraphs 0015-0016] …the terminals which the base station A should attest are only the terminals 1 and 3 which are terminals of A house. Therefore, it is made for the base station A to want to manage registration and attestation of a terminal so that attestation may not be given other than the terminal 1 of A house, and 3. The same thing can be said also in the base station B of B house. Even if it is between different manufacturing makers, the interconnectivity of apparatus is required of domestic apparatus.

Applicant argues that Nakakita fails to teach a system and method of a participation terminal device which sends the communication availability judgment result indicating whether or not communication can be performed with another participation terminal device that is participating in the network as in Claims 6, 18 and 22.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Nakakita discloses a method wherein a terminal must posses a known key before network authentication can be performed, read as the Claimed sending of communication availability judgment result indicating whether or not communication can be performed with another participation terminal device.

[paragraph 0016] What is necessary is just to perform distribution of a secret key at Step S1001 of drawing 34 at wireless LAN like IEEE802.11 by which proprietary specification is permitted. For example, what is necessary is just to make a secret key to a base station or a terminal beforehand.

Applicant argues that Nakakita fails to teach a system and method of exclusion from the network in accordance with the communication availability judgment result, and deleting the participation terminal device that should be excluded from the network from the participation terminal information as in Claims 6, 18 and 22.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Nakakita discloses a method wherein a terminal must register with a base station, and if authentication should fail for any reason, an authentication table is updated, including a method of deleting information of the attempting terminal, interpreted to read on the Claimed deleting the participation terminal device that should be excluded from the network from the participation terminal information.

[paragraph 0049] Thus, by the ability to judge, it is possible to redo registration and attestation of the internal terminal 1, or to correct the registration authentication table (refer to drawing 9) of a base station. The correction of the registration authentication table of a base station can perform deletion of only the latest information, deletion of all the information, etc.

Applicant argues that Nakakita, as modified by Everdell, fails to teach a management terminal that includes a function of managing a configuration of the network as in Claims 1, 8, 11, 16, 19, 22, 24, 26, 27, and 30.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Nakakita discloses a method wherein a terminal attempts to connect with a base station, read as the Claimed management terminal, wherein a MAC address is used to decipher apparatus classification, interpreted to read on the Claimed function of managing a configuration of the network.

[paragraphs 0027-0028] The mode of the terminal 1 also changes from the normal mode to register mode after transmission of this application-for-registration information. It means that both the base station A and the terminal 1 had shifted to register mode at

this time. As shown in drawing 4, the MAC Address of the terminal 1, the public key of the terminal 1 and a public-key crypto system, and its information peculiar to end of the other end 1, including apparatus classification, a serial number, a manufacturing-company name, a user name, etc., are included in the application-for-registration information which the terminal 1 transmits. As a MAC Address, the EUI 64 address or EUI 48 address of IEEE can be considered.

/George C Neurauter, Jr./

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2443